



Ohio Attorney General's Office
 Bureau of Criminal Investigation
 Investigative Report



2023-1835
 Officer Involved Critical Incident – 114 North Ninth St, Byesville,
 OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Jeremiah Wise (S)
Date of Activity: 07/11/2023
Author: SA Craig Call

Narrative:

On July 11, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Investigations and Crime Scene Units were requested by the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (shooting) involving members of the Byesville Police Department (BPD), GCSO, and Jeremiah Wise (Wise). It was reported to BCI the incident occurred at Wise's residence, 114 North 9th Street, Byesville, Ohio, and resulted in Wise being shot by officers and transported to a nearby hospital where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries. BCI Special Agent Craig Call (SA Call) was designated as the lead investigator.

BCI was informed BPD [REDACTED], BPD Auxiliary Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED], and GCSO Deputy [REDACTED] Deputy [REDACTED] were the officers that fired weapons during the incident. SA Call was informed Attorney Bob Sauter (Attorney Sauter) would be counsel for the above officers. SA Call and Attorney Sauter spoke on the phone and were able to schedule interviews for the above officers for July 20, 2023. Attorney Sauter also indicated he would sit in and provide counsel if needed or requested by any non-shooting witness officers.

After an initial review of the body worn camera footage available and briefly speaking with officers on scene during the incident, it was determined the following officers would be interviewed due to their involvement in the incident:

- Sgt. Bill Patterson (Hostage Negotiations)
- Detective Brian Carpenter (Lead Hostage Negotiator during the event)
- GCSO Special Deputy Courtney Ryan (Tactical Emergency Medical Services)
- GCSO Deputy Jeff Barton (GCSO SWAT)
- GCSO Deputy Jon Simmerman (Perimeter during the incident)

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On July 20, 2023, SA Call met with GCSO Deputy Deputy Jeff Barton (Deputy Barton) and Attorney Sauter at the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office in reference to obtaining a witness statement from Deputy Barton. Prior to beginning the interview SA Call explained to Deputy Barton the investigation was not an internal investigation by the GCSO and BPD, but an independent third-party investigation. SA Call further explained the interview was voluntary and could be stopped by Deputy Barton at any time. Deputy Barton indicated he understood and agreed to be interviewed by SA Call. SA Call provided Deputy Barton with BCI's Criminal Investigation Notification Form which Deputy Barton reviewed and signed. Attorney Sauter did remain present for the interview.

The audio recording began at approximately 1327 hours.

Deputy Barton is a one-year employee with the GCSO currently serving in the uniformed division and has a previous six years combined law enforcement service at Noble and Monroe County Sheriff's Offices. Deputy Barton also serves the GCSO as a K-9 handler and member the SWAT team.

On the date of the incident, Deputy Barton described being on duty working with the GCSO SWAT at an unrelated residence in Cambridge, Ohio, when he heard radio traffic indicating BPD requested assistance on North 9th Street with a suicidal male barricaded in his home. Deputy Barton recalled the traffic indicating the male had access to firearms. Deputy Barton described he and the rest of the GCSO SWAT team responded to an industrial warehouse near the address in question and staged there. Deputy Barton believed approximately 2.5-3 hours of time passed since their arrival when the SWAT team commander dismissed some of the personnel to go home and rest in the event the incident turned into a prolonged situation. Deputy Barton indicated he was one of the personnel originally sent home and was driving home in his cruiser when he heard "shots fired" come over the radio. Deputy Barton described being close to the area due to the location of his residence. Deputy Barton indicated he made an immediate emergency response to the area on North 9th Street. Deputy Barton describing taking a position with other members of the GCSO SWAT team in front of the subject residence in a stacked formation just prior to making entry into the residence. Deputy Barton identified the GCSO members of the entry team as Major Wilkinson, Lt. Stoney, Deputy Lowe, GCSO TEMS Ryan (Ryan), Detective Carpenter, Deputy Sherman, and himself. Deputy Barton believed he was third through the door as a part of the entry.

Upon entry, Deputy Barton described observing Wise lying on the floor on his stomach immediately inside the front door. Deputy Barton described Wise as being conscious and responsive during his initial contact with him. Deputy Barton indicated he initially detained Wise with handcuffs. Deputy Barton described observing Wise as having two gunshot wounds with one as an apparent through and through shot the right upper trapezius area and the other as an apparent through and through shot appearing to enter the right lower chest area and exit the back area. Deputy Barton indicated he and Ryan treated the wounds with chest seals prior to the helping responding emergency medical services load Wise into the squad. Deputy Barton said he and Ryan accompanied the squad to Southeastern Medical Center Hospital in Cambridge. Deputy Barton estimated the transport time from the scene to the hospital as approximately 5-6 minutes. Deputy Barton opined Wise's condition appeared to deteriorate quickly upon their arrival at the hospital. Deputy Barton described observing

medical personnel administer blood transfusions to Wise and perform a surgical operation on the gunshot wound to the right lower chest area. Deputy Barton said he was present when Wise was pronounced dead and remained at the hospital as security until approximately 2230 hours.

SA Call provided Deputy Barton with an overhead map view of the area of the incident and Deputy Barton was able to mark where the GCSO SWAT team was staged and his approximate response route to the incident. The map has been added to the case file.

Deputy Barton was armed during the incident and reported he did not fire his weapon nor did he observe any of the officers on scene fire their weapons.

Deputy Barton reported he does not believe he has had any previous contact with Wise nor does he recall being on any calls for service at the 114 North 9th Street address.

The audio recording ended at approximately 1342 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: GCSO Deputy Barton Interview

Attachment # 02: Barton CIN

Attachment # 03: Barton Overhead View



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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is **not** a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

Jeffrey S. Barton Jr.

Printed Name of Interviewee

7/20/23 @ 1324

Date / Time

[Handwritten Signature] 03

Signature of Interviewee

SA T. Craig Call

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Handwritten Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)



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Team Bear Cat

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